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RACE WARS, U.S.A. - PART II

THE CAUSE OF RIOTING

by George S. Schuyler

George S. Schuyler, a Negro, is among the conservatives who have been warning for years that the modern civil rights movement — founded on the communist lie that American Negroes are oppressed by whites — would result in bloody anarchy. Mr. Schuyler has been a newspaperman for 50 years, and is the author of such notable books as Black No More and Black But Conservative. Below is the full text of Schuyler's column commenting on recent Negro riots. The column is copyrighted and syndicated by North American Newspaper Alliance.

Race war is here, perhaps to stay; and, while this will be denied, Negro leadership itself — including the so-called “moderates” — must share much of the blame for the smoking cities, the vandalism, and the armed attacks by some young Negroes on the forces of law and order.

Passage of an antiriot bill will not alter the situation much, because it would seem to be too little and too late. While curbing the subversive activities of some of the itinerant agitators, it will not curb the local incitement by the revolutionary cells already in being in cities large and small across the country.

Nothing seems to have been learned from the warnings through the years by informed observers of the gathering storms which were believed to be brewed by poverty, discrimination, and as they now say, “cultural deprivation.” In this connection it is notable that these tragic uprisings rarely occurred anywhere prior to the onset 10 years ago of the campaign of agitation and incitement by Negro activists.

The vandalizing of our cities today is the product of 50 years of brainwashing. Many still refuse to recognize it, but millions of whites have fallen for the line that they are today, in 1967, responsible for the evils of slavery and for the “century of neglect” that followed it. The fact is that the “century of neglect” produced the most prosperous, civilized and educated Negro community anywhere on the globe in history.

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So successful was this line that even relatively recent immigrants from Poland, Italy, or Ireland have been duped into feeling guilty for what some slaveowners in the American South might have done 100 years before they were born.

Similarly, Negro intellectuals have been brainwashed into thinking the only reasons for Negro backwardness in America are those attributable to whites. The successful Negro has been downgraded as a self-seeking opportunist; the jobless, embittered, violence-prone Negro has been idealized as the true voice of his people.

Much as many Americans dislike hearing this, the Communist Party has been the most consistent and effective manipulator of this line of thinking. It long ago painted a picture of American society — of greed, brutality, racism — that has been adopted wholeheartedly by many of the Negro leaders who, literally, are “calling the shots” in Detroit, Newark, Rochester and where next.

For several decades, Negro leadership in speeches, news releases, books and other writings have harped interminably on the faults of American society; the mistreatment of Negroes was exaggerated; handicaps were denounced and opportunities minimized. Where the Negro needed hopeful plans for the future and an optimistic strategy to achieve them, there was a continuous campaign of denigration, denunciation and pessimism. This was the last thing uprooted farm migrants of low education needed or wanted, when they flocked to our cities.

This was a challenge to Negro leadership which it has failed to meet in the massive proportions necessary. European immigrants had faced similar handicaps and hardships, and had overcome them in large part by organization and ingenuity, whereas the city Negroes set up their own color and caste lines, and sought to escape their less prepared peers; often not without some logic on their side.

Every Negro urban community suffered social indigestion from consuming too many migrants in too short a period, and with not enough help from white neighbors who also fled the influx.

Under the circumstances, it is remarkable the Negro population acquired so many skills, so much education and such an accumulation of wealth in so short a time, but mostly through individual rather than community effort.

As of the present there are 320,000 Negro students matriculating in the nation's colleges and universities, with more than twice as many Negro students per 1,000 of black population as there are proportionately students in Europe.

There are more than 2,500,000 Negro-owned automotive vehicles (excluding automatic farm machinery) and an equal number of Negro-owned homes.

While the number of farmers, colored and white, declines yearly in the face of automation, there were at last counting 127,473 Negro farm owners, and a Negro farmer today without an automobile, truck, tractor, television set, electric refrigerator, and in some cases cotton-picking machines, is rare. Nearly 100,000 Negro farmers constitute a fifth of all tobacco growers. There are twice as many Negro businesses as there were at the end of World War II.

It would seem to be reason for optimism and hope, but the prophets of doom shout louder than ever and, unfortunately, they have progressively either brainwashed the Negro upper class or have frightened them into silence.

They have not really attempted to quarrel with or condemn the local and national pied pipers who are leading gangs of dropouts, juvenile delinquents and the criminally-inclined “lumpen-proletariat” astray.

They have almost uniformly taken up the chant of “police brutality” and screamed for civilian review boards further to handicap the police in using the necessary force to maintain law and order. They have refused wholeheartedly to condemn hoodlumism and those who led the street packs — for fear of being dubbed “Uncle Tom.”

And one seeks far and wide for a trade school any group of them have set up to teach young

Negroes a skill which they can sell in the labor market. A conservative Negro with vision is denounced as an enemy of his people if he speaks up against the criminal trends in his community.

So this has given the agitator-activists full sway and no one has been tearing apart their vicious lies. There is always a holding-back for fear of appearing "anti-Negro."

These people are clever and conscienceless verbalists who would make it appear the American Negro's future is hopeless whereas it is as hopeful as that of the whites if there are spokesmen to say so.

Every excuse and alibi possible has been made for Negro backwardness, shiftlessness and criminality, instead of facing up to the facts and telling the truth. The reaction of "intellectuals" to the widely-publicized Moynihan report on the prevalence of the Negro matriarchal family is a case in point.

They either condemned it out-of-hand or failed to defend it; yet how are you going to improve a situation unless you admit it exists?

Even so prominent a Negro official as the secretary of housing and urban development, Robert C. Weaver, tells the Senate housing subcommittee riots "are inevitable consequences of scores of decades of neglect, discrimination, and deprivation, and well-directed positive action can stop them."

This is the now familiar refrain which actually encourages riots because of the belief it engenders that improvements come only from street action. Certainly those Negroes are not "deprived" whose kitchens are stacked with the loot from neighborhood stores!

The agitators gather crowds by blaming the white man for all the Negroes' ills while the responsible Negro leadership either defends this falsehood, cravenly remains silent, or whimpers "we didn't really mean it" after the cities have burned to ashes.

THE CAUSE OF RIOTING

by U. S. Representative Thomas G. Abernethy

Mr. Abernethy (Mississippi Democrat) is one of many southern members of Congress who have been much maligned by all liberals for opposing the civil rights movement, warning that it was dragging the nation toward disaster. The following is Abernethy's speech to the House on July 25, 1967, about the cause of rioting.

Perhaps I should not make this speech, but I believe it ought to go on the record. We need to set things straight, talk about the facts, and lay the finger of responsibility exactly where it should be laid without political overtones.

One political side of the House has just accused the other of being responsible for this horrible state of lawlessness in which we find ourselves. Then, in turn, the other side accuses the other. And here it goes.

Well, you know who is responsible. Both sides are responsible. It all goes back through two or three Presidents — Democrat and Republican — and down through six or seven Congresses, Democrat and Republican. This is not something which has just happened in the last few days. It has been in the building — political building, if you please — for 10 or 12 years, or more.

Both sides, both political parties, and the members thereof, have been in a bidding contest around here for about 14 years, in an attempt to curry favor with these people, and you know it.

For several years some of you actually cultivated rebellious incidents in my part of the country — the Deep South. And every time the slightest difference between the races would break out in poor little old Mississippi, from where I come, or some other southern State, many of you would pack your shabby old valises and head down to revel in the activity, issue press statements from Jackson, or Little Rock, or Montgomery, or Selma about how horrible things were down that way. Even now, some of you are accusing us of starving the Negro people to death, all at a time when the colored in your own areas are burning you to

the ground. You have more trouble with this issue in one northern State than you will find in all of the South combined. Some of you who have made Southern civil rights junkets to get your pictures made and be seen on television are sitting on this floor at this moment. And you are as quiet as the grave.

Then we have seen some of our former Attorneys General — Kennedy, Brownell, and Katzenbach — make their journeys down to straighten out those “old mean folks” down there. Another great southern tripping expert has been the present Dr. Doar, a specialist in the Justice Department on civil rights. One thing for sure, he is avoiding Detroit and Newark just now.

In fact, I do not seem to be seeing any of these civil rights experts from the Department of Justice or the Congress headed for Detroit, for Newark, for Spanish Harlem, for Cambridge, Md., or one of the other score of cities now burning from riotous racial conduct.

Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy sent the military in to Little Rock and Oxford on the slightest sort of disturbance. But President Johnson sort of held back until Detroit was on its knees. I doubt it would have taken him so long if this had happened in the South. But, he got in on the act. The facts are that in no instance should the military have been sent to either. The National Guard and police of each State were in each instance fully capable of handling the situation. Governor Romney, another civil rights “expert,” piddled around with the problem before putting the full force of his Guard on duty.

But getting back to the main point, you know who is to blame for the racial mess America finds itself in today. We all know, and you know, it is because of the political bidding contest the two political parties have been engaged in, in their all-out effort to get the minority racial vote. And the bid we will all remember the longest was the one made by President Johnson when he insisted

a year or so ago on delivering a message to a night session of this Congress. Ah, the drama that was packed into that night! Remember his joining the chant “We shall overcome”? That was to be the night to sew up the racial minority vote from now on and forevermore. But it did not hold long. The black power boys came back for more, and more, and more, and more.

You know I am telling you the truth. This is a sad day. But you brought it upon all of us by playing racial politics. It has all been done right here in the city of Washington. Every time you bid, the black power interests raised the price. You have laid every gift, grant, concession, lure and bid you could think of at their doorstep and at their feet. You have done so much of this you are just about out of something to hand them. You just cannot think of anything else. You would if you could. They demand more and more, and they have told you they are going to burn this country down if they do not get it.

Now, here the leaders of the two parties find themselves engaged in a “blaming” contest, all at a time when the Nation is being leveled to the ground. For years now, you have sown the wind and you have reaped the whirlwind, and you know it.

Lay the blame where it belongs — in the White House, in the Congress and in the headquarters of the two political parties.

You are right in blaming one another. You are both to blame.

NEXT WEEK: More on the racial wars.

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